## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus relating to the combustion of a fuel with an oxidant in a heating furnace, wherein the fuel and the oxidant are delivered to a burner head. In a first method step fuel and oxidant are emitted from the burner head in close proximity to each other, so that combustion essentially takes place close to and at a small distance outward of the burner head, and until a temperature is reached in the furnace space that exceeds the spontaneous combustion temperature of the fuel. In a second method step the fuel and the oxidant are instead emitted from the burner head at a mutual distance apart, so that combustion takes place at a distance from the burner head corresponding to at least the diameter of the burner head and outward of the burner head.